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Appl. No. 10/594,784
Arndt Dated June 22, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An acrylic elastomer composition, which comprises a carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer, (A) a vulcanizing agent of polyvalent amine compound, and (B) an antioxidant comprising a thiazole-based compound selected from 2-mercaptopbenzothiazole, or its zinc salt, or dibenzothiazyl disulfide, wherein the thiazole-based compound inhibits oxidative degradation of compression set characteristics of said acrylic elastomer composition.

Claim 2 (Original): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1, wherein the carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer is an aliphatic unsaturated dicarboxylic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer.

Claim 3 (Original): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1, wherein 0.05-10 parts by weight of the thiazole-based compound is contained on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer.

Appl. No. 10/594,784
Amtd. Dated June 22, 2009
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Claim 4 (Original): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 2, wherein 0.05-10 parts by weight of the thiazole-based compound is contained on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer.

Claim 5 (Original): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1, wherein the thiazole-based compound is used together with an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant.

Claim 6 (Original): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 2, wherein the thiazole-based compound is used together with an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1, wherein 0.1-5 parts by weight of a vulcanizing agent of polyvalent amine compound is further contained on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer.

Claim 8 (Original): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article, vulcanization-molded from an acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Appl. No. 10/594,784
Amtd. Dated June 22, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2009

Claim 10 (Original): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article according to Claim 8, which has parts in a wall thickness of not more than 30mm.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Original): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article according to Claim 10, wherein the vulcanization-molded article having parts in a wall thickness of not more than 30mm is a gasket or O ring.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method of improving the compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition which comprises a carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer, which method comprises using a vulcanizing agent of a polyvalent amine compound to prepare the acrylic elastomer composition and incorporating a thiazole-based compound selected from 2-mercaptopbenzothiazole, or its zinc salt, or dibenzothiazyl disulfide into the acrylic elastomer composition.

Appl. No. 10/594,784
Amtd. Dated June 22, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2009

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A method of improving the compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition according to claim 14, wherein the thiazole-based compound inhibits oxidative degradation of compression set characteristics of said acrylic elastomer composition.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of improving the compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition according to claim 14 further comprising including an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant into the acrylic elastomer composition, which functions as a primary antioxidant.